

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 23 are pending in the application and indicated that, due to the amendments made in response to the previous Office Action, the application now contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species of the claims invention: Species I, drawn to Figure 2 (claims 13-23); and Species II, described on pages 12-13 of the specification (claim 12). The Examiner also asserted that original claims 1-11 are associated with a species not shown in the specification.

Claims 1-11

The Examiner's comments regarding claims 1-11 are duly noted. In this Reply, applicant has removed, both from the claims and the specification, the language objected to by the Examiner regarding assertions by the applicant that the EPI comprises the event represented by a redemption document such as a ticket. While applicant is of the opinion that the specification as originally filed supports this language, applicant has nonetheless removed the objected-to language. The specification, as currently amended, describes the redemption document, such as a ticket, as the EPI, rather than as the event itself, represented by the redemption document. Applicant believes this conforms with the Examiner's recitation of his understanding of a first embodiment of this invention.

Applicant has also amended claims 1-4 to conform with the specification in its amended form.

The above-described amendments to the specification and claims do not present new matter and it is applicant's belief that these amendments render moot the Examiner's objections to claims 1-11.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant elects Species I, drawn to claims 13-23, for prosecution on the merits.

Applicant further submits that claims 1-11 correspond to this same Species (Species I). Thus, applicant requests that the Examiner include claims 1-11 as part of Species I and examine claims 1-11, in addition to claims 13-23, on the merits.

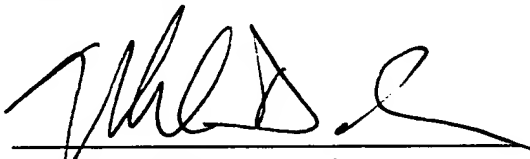
Conclusion

Applicant has addressed each of the Examiner's objections and requirements herein. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue an early Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted

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Date


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